

ESTABLISHED

Now that I am smart, now that I am
a clever guy who pretends to waltz,
uncaring and cozy, toward death
with a suit-jacket and tie, now that
I have a podium to speak from,
authority which creases your
folded mind, now that I am older,
dressing, more impatient,
important, more out-loud with
sharp opinions, now that people
must respect me, now that I
demand them to, now that I
have grey rivers of hair, pressed
collars, shiny, black shoes, my
own house and wife, my own
publications, solely on talent,
not a plethora of titles, degrees,
certificates, years of being alive,
academic awards, now that I
have been detached, arrogant,
mismatched, introverted,
extraverted, in the in-crowd,
systematic, submissive,
traditional, rebellious,
conforming, angry, accepting,
ambiguous, ambitious, and
have given it all away, won it
all back, given it all away,
now that others have defined
what's good, what's not, now
that I grew up and still don't
understand, now that I blaze,
giant torch at the blackboard,
as little matches sit at desks
and flicker, now that I stand
before you and you sit before
me, now that I am established...